

Strengthen Naval Cooperation to Maintain Maritime Security

Your Excellency Honorable Mr. Rajapaksa, Secretary to the Ministry of Defense, Sri Lanka,

Your Excellency Honorable Vice Admiral Dissanayake, Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy,

Honorable admirals, generals and air marshal,

Dear colleagues and friends, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon!

First of all, on behalf of Admiral Wu Shengli, Commander of the Chinese PLA Navy, and also in my own name, I would like to congratulate the successful opening of “Galle Dialogue 2011”, to extend our heart-felt thanks for the invitation of the Chinese PLA Navy by the Ministry of Defense and the Navy of Sri Lanka, and express our best wishes for the success of this event! I am convinced that this will be a splendid dialogue, and a dialogue that inspires thinking, enhances friendship, and promotes cooperation. I would also like to take this opportunity to offer our sincere regards to colleagues and friends of all navies represented here today. Now I would like to share with you the following 3 points:

I. Maritime security situation and our attitude

The ocean connects various countries of the world closely together. The development of nations, the welfare of peoples, and the

advance of societies are all closely bound up to oceans and seas. The current security situation in the maritime domain is generally stable around the world today, but we are still faced with various maritime security problems of global nature. Traditional and non-traditional security threats are interwoven, constantly constituting challenges, and the situation is far from optimistic. Security mutual-trust is still lacking between some maritime countries, which has resulted in suspicion and confrontation; Disputes over island sovereignty and maritime delineation are still lingering; Piracy is far from eradicated, threatening international shipping safety; Weapons & drugs smuggling, human trafficking and other illegal activities are rampant, damaging legal orders of the sea; Natural disasters and maritime accidents are frequent, causing severe casualties and property losses; Marine pollution is serious and the environment is damaged; Climate change and global warming have resulted in the rise of sea level, even endangering the existence of some coastal and island countries. The amelioration and solving of all these issues depends on the concerted efforts of all countries!

The overwhelming majority part of oceans is public domain in nature. Maintaining maritime peace, security and stability and promoting its development and prosperity conform to common interests of all countries. It is the responsibility of navy, as the international and sea-borne armed force, to restrain, reduce and remove maritime security threats and to effectively respond to

maritime security challenges.

Here, I'd like to responsibly clarify that the Chinese PLA navy is and will always be advocating the concept of maritime security and harmony, is and will always be implementing the strategy of marine defense but opposing any foreign aggression, is and will always be performing the missions of safeguarding national sovereignty and security, as well as is and will always be fulfilling legitimate obligations of international maritime security. Therefore, China is and will always be developing a modernized navy compliant with the mission in the new stage of new era. All these are consistent.

II. Chinese Navy's Efforts in Fulfilling Common Obligations

The Chinese PLA Navy, always engaged in maintaining maritime peace and security, has been consistently making efforts in recent years.

In our offshore areas, we highly focus on the maritime security, and have carried out a series of effective operations for safeguarding China's unification and sovereignty, for supporting the orderly implementation of maritime production and scientific research, for maintaining smooth vessels' navigation, for curbing maritime crimes and illegal activities, and for actively taking part in marine environment protection and maritime disaster relief. Faced with some contravention and problems in certain disputed sea areas, we have conducted consultation and dialogue to peacefully solve the disputes. We Chinese Navy would like to continue our joint efforts, together

with navies coasting the waters, to maintain the peace, safety and stability of the neighboring waters.

In distant water regions, we have consistently fulfilled the obligations for an responsible power, carrying out MOOTW tasks only when authorized by the UN and on the premise of conforming to international laws, and have persisted in developing friendly cooperative relations with various navies. Since 2009, we have sent out 28 naval ships for friendly visits to over 30 countries, have received 38 visiting warships from various navies, and have received naval leaders of 44 navies. Last year and this year, we have continuously sent out “Ark Peace” hospital ship for humanitarian medical assistance operations coded “Mission Harmony” to some Asian, African and South American countries, providing medical service to local public free of charge. Besides, we have dispatched 10 task groups in succession to Somali waters and the Gulf of Aden for escort missions, continuously organizing escort operations for 390 convoys including over 4300 merchant vessels, foreign, Chinese and the World Food Program’s, have successfully rescued 40 merchant ships being chased or attacked by pirates, and have ensured the safety of all these escorted vessels. During the escort mission, the Chinese Escort Task Force have actively conducted exchanges and cooperation with ETFs of other navies

Peaceful development is the historical choice of the Chinese people, and the strategic decision of the Chinese government.

Accordingly, strengthening exchanges and cooperation to commonly maintain the maritime peace and security is the sincere wish of the Chinese PLA Navy.

III. Chinese Navy Looking Forward to Future Maritime Security Cooperation

China advocates the new security concept of mutual-trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation, engaged in building harmony of oceans, and following the good-neighborly and friendly foreign policy. In our opinion, under the great trend of economic globalization development, the unique geographical features of vastness, common-sharing and connectivity have enabled oceans becoming a bond or a bridge connecting various nations as the most convenient channel of international trades, and becoming a new domain supporting the world's sustainable development. And therefore, our commonly shared maritime interests have become more and more prominent, and our commonly concerned maritime issues tend to become the same, forming an increasingly solid foundation of benefit and interest for strategic cooperation in the maritime security domain. With such an unprecedented opportunity for cooperation, all navies surely should further enhance mutual-trust, strengthen cooperation, and commonly respond to the maritime security threats and challenges.

For this purpose, I hereby propose that navies, on the foundation of common maritime interests and shared maritime security concerns

and in the equal, mutual-beneficial, cooperative and win-win principles, further deepen the dialogue and make some fruitful exploration from the following perspectives:

First, with the pursuit of the maximum common point of maritime interest for all countries, their thinking on how to conduct maritime security cooperation be expanded;

Second, on the premise of respecting states' sovereignty and marine rights and interests, code of conduct be standardized for all navies in their maritime security cooperation;

Third, the fields of all navies' carrying out maritime security cooperation be expanded, with more effective cooperation approaches, modes and methods more actively explored;

Fourth, extensive, pragmatic, various-typed and multiple-leveled naval cooperation be conducted to focus on important sea area and sea lanes safety.

We think all navies shoulder greater responsibilities in maintaining maritime security. Navies of these countries should make more efforts to create a safe and harmonious maritime environment, through dialogue, through enhancing exchanges and communication, and through elimination of mis-understanding and suspicion while enhancing understanding and trust.

Honorable Mr. Chairman, dear colleagues, friends, ladies and gentlemen,

The ocean's peace and safety is closely related to those of the

whole world, and maintaining the maritime security and building harmonious oceans are the common responsibilities of all navies. So long as we make unremitting efforts, such a sublime goal could surely become true!

That's all, thank you!

